

SENATE BILL 1816
By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 5, relative to emergency services personnel.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 5, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 68-140-524.

(a) Before issuing a license to an EMT and EMT-P, or such certificates and authorizations as shall be issued for other EMS personnel, the board may initiate a criminal background check on any person applying for such license, certificate or authorization.

Applicants shall:

- (1) Provide past work and personal references to be checked by the board;
- (2) Agree to the release of any and all information and investigative records to the board, or to any agency that contracts with the state of Tennessee necessary for the purpose of verifying whether the individual has been convicted of a felony in the state of Tennessee;

(3) Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee bureau of investigation, the federal bureau of investigation, other law enforcement agency, or any legally authorized entity; and

(4) Release any information required for a criminal background investigation by a professional background screening organization or criminal background check service or registry.

(b) Any costs incurred by the Tennessee bureau of investigation, federal bureau of investigation, professional background screening organization, law enforcement agency or other legally authorized entity, in conducting such investigations of such applicants shall be paid by such applicants. Payments of such costs to the Tennessee bureau of investigation are to be made in accordance with the provisions of §§ 38-6-103 and 38-6-109.

(c) If the board declines to issue a license or certificate to a person based upon information provided to the facility under this act it shall be immune from suit by or on behalf of that person for issue.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.